

APRIL 2019 AWARDS MONTHLY

1. Distinguished Service Award: Officer Christopher E. Williams #2337

The abovementioned officer was nominated for his efforts in response to a family needing help. Officer Williams is a trained Crisis Intervention Team officer as well as a member of the Homeless Outreach Team. During the past five months, Officer Williams has worked with the homeless, assisting them in obtaining services such as counseling for social issues, mental illness, drug dependency, homelessness, veteran assistance and gainful employment within our community.

Officer Williams became aware of a family in need during the month of November, 2018. The family was living out of a local motel. The family was originally from Kansas City, but had moved to Wichita to create a better life for their children. They were suffering financially and on the verge of becoming homeless. Officer Williams made arrangements with the assistance of local neighboring churches for the family to continue to stay at the motel until housing could be located. Officer Williams stayed in contact with the family over the coming weeks, assisting with the family's needs. During the months of November and December, Officer Williams nominated the family to receive a Thanksgiving meal and to receive a Christmas dinner and gifts for the children as part of the Christmas Crusade. He took responsibility for delivering both meals and gifts they received for the holidays.

Knowing the family did not own a computer, Officer Williams used his own personal computer in researching employment for the family. He enrolled the family in a job search database and provided the information to the family as job opportunities opened up. Officer Williams also assisted in transporting the children to school. In January of 2019, the husband of the family was able to get a job with Sonic. Officer Williams also delivered an apartment application for the family and assisted in getting it filled out. He later met with the apartment manager to explain the family's situation. The meeting was successful and Officer Williams secured a three bedroom apartment for the family to live in. Officer Williams used his position in working with His Helping Hands to provide furniture for the family, which also included food vouchers.

In March of 2019, Chief Ramsay, Sergeant Stull, and Officer Williams met with the family again at their new apartment. The family thanked Officer Williams and Chief Ramsay for the help they provided in getting them on their feet. They were very optimistic and very grateful and now have hope. The children are all in school. The oldest is graduating from high school with possible scholarships being offered for track. The family has become very attached to Officer Williams and he serves as a positive role model and a mentor to the children. Officer Williams continues to reach out to the family as they continue to succeed in life. Officer Williams has clearly shown commitment to the community and the Department he serves. He has taken the extra steps in helping a family in need, both in the environment for their children and employment for the husband of the family.